

From The Supervisor’s Desk
Clifford G. Day

The theme of this issue of *Field Notes* is invasive species. In these pages you will find information about the impacts of and control efforts concerning invasive and exotic species in New Jersey. Invasive and exotic nuisance species have serious effects on indigenous plant, fish and wildlife populations. Addressing the impact is a federal trust responsibility. Under the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (P.L. 103-62), federal agencies are required to establish standards to measure performance and effectiveness and report actual results. The first principal mission goal established by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (Service) in compliance with the Act is titled “Sustainability of Fish and Wildlife Populations” and guides Service activities in the control of invasive species. The need to control invasive species is an essential step toward the successful restoration of declining species. Additionally, the new Strategic Vision Plan for the Service’s Fisheries Program outlines a course to protect the health of aquatic habitats and includes criteria to control invasive species.

There are several federal authorities to control and/or block the pathways of these rogue species. The National Invasives Species Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-332) reauthorizes and amends the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-646), which was the initial effort to prevent and control infestations of the coastal inland waters of the United States by the European zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*) and other nonindigenous aquatic nuisance species through ballast water management. As amended through 1996, the law promoted state aquatic nuisance species management plans and was expanded to include other targeted species such as the brown tree snake (*Boiga irregularis*).

The National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (111 Stat. 1252; 16 U.S.C. 668dd *et seq.*) provides the Service with the ability to control invasive species on refuge lands. Additionally, a “National Strategy for Invasive Species Management in the Refuge System” has been developed for the prevention and control of invasives. The authority to control invasives off federal lands becomes more ambiguous. However, through the import and export of injurious wildlife, provisions under the Lacey Act amendments of 1981 (P.L. 97-79, 95 Stat. 1073, 16 U.S.C. 3371-3378) can block pathways of invasive species. Lastly, all federal agencies are prohibited by Executive Order and law (E.O. 13112 and 16 U.S.C. 4701 respectively) from funding, authorizing or carrying out actions that are likely to cause or promote the introduction or spread of invasive species in this country or elsewhere.

The National Invasive Species Council (www.invasivespecies.gov) coordinates the federal response to the problems associated with invasive species. Direct links to images and information on a number of invasive and exotic species can be found at www.invasive.org.

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To work with
others to
conserve, protect
and enhance
fish, wildlife,
and plants and
their habitats for
the continuing
benefit of the
American People.*

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